

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE
(202) 224-3135

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas), today urged the Senate to approve a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"For this Senator, it is extremely gratifying to have the opportunity to state the case for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States", Dole said, "I know my colleagues are aware of my conviction that this constitutional change is essential to the long-term fiscal health of this nation. I hope at least two-thirds of them share my conviction."

A SINGLE PRINCIPLE

"The compromise amendment we are supporting embodies a simple principle: in the normal situation, outlays of the Federal government should not exceed receipts. Our amendment just requires that to allow a deficit, Congress must by 3/5 vote authorize a specific excess of outlays over receipts. And to preserve a bias in favor of controlling spending we say that tax increases cannot be passed except by a majority of all members of the House and Senate: not just those present and voting."

Senator Dole concluded by noting that "fundamental problems demand fundamental solutions. Those of us who have worked to develop a responsible constitutional amendment over the years have not taken lightly our duty to respect the form and the spirit of the basic law of the land. The language of this amendment is appropriate to the Constitution. It is not premised on any particular economic philosophy, but rather on the belief that Congress ought to make specific decisions on fiscal policy and be held accountable for those decisions. The amendment requires that we follow consistent procedures in setting fiscal policy, and establishes firm parameters to govern those procedures. That is all there is to it, and it is something we very much need."